

UNITED NATIONS TO RECALL ENVOYS FROM MADRID

COMPLETE BREAK WITH FRANCO PLAN REJECTED

OVERWHELMING VOTE IN POLITICAL COMMITTEE

NEW YORK, DEC. 9. THE POLITICAL AND SECURITY COMMITTEE TO-DAY VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY TO RECALL AMBASSADORS AND MINISTERS FROM MADRID, BUT REJECTED BY THE NARROWEST MARGIN THE PROPOSAL FOR A COMPLETE BREAK WITH THE FRANCO GOVERNMENT.

The vote was 27-7, with 16 abstentions, including the United States and Britain. Russia, China and France voted for the move, which was a compromise of the proposal to sever diplomatic relations.

Both the resolution for a complete break and the American-sponsored resolution to call on Franco to quit in favour of a provisional democratic government were defeated on the votes.

All three alternative actions against Franco may have another chance when the Spanish issue goes to the floor of the General Assembly where it will need a two-thirds vote for passage.

Strong feelings have been aroused by the subject, especially among the Latin-American delegations. This resulted in a long argument about the method of voting.

Dr. G. Bell, of Cuba, in an impassioned plea against breaking off relations, said: "My Government, even if a rupture were recommended, would not accept this recommendation. My country will continue to my country what policy it will follow in regard to other countries."

The preamble, which contained parts of the United States, Polish, and Belgian proposals condemning the Franco Government, was adopted without division.

The first operative clause, recommending that Spain should be debarred from membership of the United Nations' International agencies until a new and acceptable government was framed, was carried by 32 votes to 5, with eight abstentions.

Mr. Tom Connolly, U.S. delegate, declared that the proposed diplomatic isolation of Franco, a move opposed by the United States and Britain, represented a real threat to the whole issue.—United Press and Reuter.

Franco's Answer
Madrid, Dec. 9.
Gen. Francisco Franco, speaking to-day during a demonstration intended to show the solidarity of Spain behind his leadership in face of United Nations opposition, declared: "Spanish interests do not clash with the honourable interests of other nations."

UNO AGREEMENT ON POST-UNRRA RELIEF

New York, Dec. 9. The long struggle in the United Nations over the form international relief should take after UNRRA expires ended when the Economic and Financial Committee voted for a long resolution embodying the United States' insistence on bilateral arrangements and making only a slight concession to the principle of continued international co-operation.

One of the most striking features of the resolution, which will now go to the plenary session for final approval, is the Norwegian plan for contribution of one-day's pay by all working people throughout the world to relief needs. This scheme will be worked out in detail by the Secretariat in conjunction with the Economic and Social Council.

International co-operation, for which virtually the entire 46-nation Committee fought strenuously against equally stubborn opposition from the United States, and the United Kingdom, was preserved in mild form through the Canadian-proposed establishment of a special technical committee to study relief requirements and report to all governments by January 15.

The Committee is composed of finance and foreign trade experts from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Poland, the United Kingdom, United States and Soviet Union.

The Committee would have an advisory capacity only and the experts would serve in a private capacity and not as government representatives—a point on which the United States had insisted before it accepted the Canadian amendment which proposed the Committee.

The resolution states expressly that no discrimination will be made in the distribution of relief supplies because of race, creed and political belief. It calls for consultation among producing countries to co-operate in their relief activities.

The vote on the entire resolution was unanimous. Unanimous approval by the plenary session is a foregone conclusion.—United Press.

Anglo-U.S. Talks On Arms Standardisation

London, Dec. 9. No decisions have been taken by Britain and America on the standardisation of arms, according to Mr. Herbert Morrison, Lord President of the Council in a Parliamentary reply to the Communist member, Mr. Phil Piratin, to-day.

He added, however, that in view of the reciprocal exchange of weapons between the U. S. and the U.K., which took place during the war, there had naturally been discussions on this subject in the interests of economy, particularly since the two countries had effected a merger in Germany.—Reuter.

U.S. Statement
Washington, Dec. 9. Political commitments were not implied in an informal exchange of views which has taken place between Britain and the United States on the standardisation of arms, the State Department said to-day.

"There has been no change in policy," a spokesman said. "The commitments of the United States are to the United Nations."

Reading a formal statement echoing that made to-day by Mr. Herbert Morrison, Lord President of

BIG-SCALE ATTACK ON YENAN OPENED

Nanking, Dec. 9. Radio Yen-an to-day claimed that five or six regiments of Gen Hu Tsung-nan's army had launched a big-scale attack towards Yen-an from the southern part of the Communist border region, penetrating ten miles into the Red pocket.

The broadcast said the Nationalists in the initial drive captured two small towns, Lulinchen and Yangchajin. Lulinchen is about 90 miles south of Yen-an.

The broadcast indicated that the Nationalists were from the Lunghai Railway zone.—United Press.

The Council in the House of Commons, on such exchanges of views, the spokesman said: "It would be a mistake to conclude that this very natural development implies political arrangements or commitments."

"As the Secretary of State said on March 10 this year: 'We do not propose to seek security in alliance with the Soviet Union against Britain, or in an alliance with Britain against the Soviet Union.'"

To-day's U. S. statement spoke of the reciprocal exchange of weapons between the U. S. and the U.K. during the war. "It is natural and inevitable for armed forces to standardise necessary military equipment to the greatest degree practicable. To accomplish quickly and efficiently the tremendous task with which we were faced those who handled supplies in both countries and directed them towards the winning of the war found a certain amount of standardisation of equipment followed inevitably and aided tremendously in the efficient prosecution of the war."

"In many cases new types of equipment were developed jointly. Wherever standardisation was effected there was a saving in time, money and man power."

Emphasising the financial saving effected by standardisation, the statement said: "The American people are particularly interested in economy and reducing the cost of Government.—Reuter."

Vikings Unsited To Cold Weather Flying

London, Dec. 10. The British European Airways Corporation announced yesterday that its British-built Viking Vikings had been grounded temporarily because they developed a tendency toward instability under icing conditions.

American-built Dakotas (Douglas) and other aircraft will replace them. BEAC had seven Vikings in service on December 1, all on continental European routes. Thirty-seven others are to be delivered by the end of February.

BEAC technicians held a meeting yesterday to consider structural changes in the 21-seat Viking, which would make it possible to use them again for cold weather flying.—Associated Press.

Supreme Court Acceptance Of U.S. Strike Case

Washington, Dec. 9. The United States Supreme Court to-day accepted jurisdiction of the contempt of court proceedings against John L. Lewis and the American Federation of Labour. United Mine Workers and fixed January 14 for the opening arguments.

Although Lewis' calling off of the coal strike released pressure for a quick decision, the Court granted the Government request to take the case direct from the Federal District Court, where Lewis was fined \$10,000 and the Union \$3,500,000, thereby bypassing the Federal Court appeals.

After hearing the arguments, the Supreme Court must decide the issues and reach a decision—a legal procedure that might delay the final verdict until close to March 31, the date to which Lewis agreed to keep the miners at work under the existing Government contract.

The Court's action meant that arguments involving the important question of use of Court injunctions to prohibit strikes against public interest would not begin until after the Republican-controlled Congress convenes. Presumably Congress will await ruling before embarking on a broad programme for revision of existing labour legislation.

However, Senator Robert Taft, who may be chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, told the press that labour legislation would be among the first problems confronting the new Congress.

The immediate question before the Supreme Court is whether the fines levied against Lewis and the Union were justified. Mr. Alan Goldborough, who joined the fines, is the question of whether Lewis had the right to terminate the UMW's contract with the Government.

Meanwhile, the Solid Fuels Administration estimated that returning miners would dig about 1,500,000 tons of coal to-day, compared to the pre-strike average of 2,200,000 tons. Only scattered districts reported defiance of Lewis' back to work order.

The question for the Supreme Court to decide in the case as set forth in the Government brief, is this, adds Associated Press:

"Did the District Court of the United States in this case have jurisdiction by the issuance of a temporary restraining order to prevent irreparable injury to the people of the United States to prevent interference with sovereignty actions of the United States and protect the district courts jurisdiction, to decide the questions of law, fact and incident hereto?"

GREEK REBELS SURRENDER AT LARISSA

Athens, Dec. 9. The Greek General Staff to-day reported a clash in the village of Roota, near Larissa, in which 20 guerillas were reported to have been killed yesterday against the loss of one soldier.

Fourteen guerillas surrendered to-day with their full equipment to Greek military authorities at Larissa, it was officially stated.

The Ministry of Public Order declared that it had received information that members of a Slav-Macedonian organisation had been arrested near Doiran, near the Greek-Yugo-Slav border, while mining the main roads.

The Greek Military authorities in north and Central Macedonia have so far failed to obtain an explanation from the Bulgarian military authorities on Bulgaria's south-western frontier of an incident in October in which Bulgarian troops ambushed a Greek patrol on Greek soil, official Athens sources said to-day.

Giving the first news of the alleged clash, the statement said Bulgarian soldiers hidden behind rocks on Greek territory, some 200 yards from the border, opened "violent fire" on Greek troops patrolling near the outpost of Agrioperrasi, south of Nevrokop region on October 31.

The Greek patrol repulsed the Bulgarians who retreated into Bulgarian under cover of fire from a Bulgarian outpost.—Reuter.

Statement On India Expected In Commons To-day

London, Dec. 9. The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Herbert Morrison, announced to-day that a statement on India might be made in the Commons on Tuesday.

He was replying to Mr. Anthony Eden, former Foreign Secretary and Deputy leader of the Conservative Opposition, who asked whether a statement would be made in view of the desire of all parts of the House to hear a statement as soon as possible.

A Labour member, Maj. Wyatt, asked why the statement could not be made on Friday so that a debate on Indian affairs could follow immediately.

Mr. Morrison replied: "I don't wish to preclude the issue at all. I have got the statement it is intended to make and it would be premature at this point to decide even in my own mind whether a debate would be possible."

Lobby rumours indicated that potential leaders might avoid debate this week.

The British Press Association said: "Some ministers feel that if unwise things were said in the debate it would be a disaster."

NEHRU TO RESIGN?

New Delhi, Dec. 9. Reliable sources said to-day that Pandit Nehru, Congress Party leader, offered to resign as vice-president of the Viceroy's Executive Council because of his failure in the London conference on India.

Nehru reportedly told the Congress Working Committee that his trip was a failure and his decision to attend against the unanimous advice of his colleagues was a blunder. He was said to feel that the only way he could atone would be by his resignation from the Interim Government.—United Press.

Thursday and Friday have been left open on the Parliament schedule and it was reported that the House put up a strong demand for a debate, one would be arranged for Thursday. The Conservative Party's "shadow Cabinet" was reported undecided on its position regarding a debate.

Lobby sources said that the Commons would probably debate the controversial merger of the British and American zones of Germany.—Associated Press.

Muslims In Britain

London, Dec. 9. Mohammed Ali Jinnah and Liaquat Ali Khan, Muslim League President and Secretary, received private callers in Claridge's Hotel late to-day.

K. H. Khurshid, Jinnah's private secretary, said Jinnah had begun talks with local Muslim leaders for reorganisation of the United Kingdom of the League, Khurshid added.

The Muslim League President is reported to have brought over £15,000 to finance the reorganisation, but Khurshid would make no comment on the matter.—Associated Press.

Indian Press Comment

Bombay, Dec. 9. The Times of India said editorially to-day that the London conference failed to achieve agreement but brought a remarkably clear and concise statement of the procedure before the Constituent Assembly from the British Government.

The editorial continued: "In view of that statement, masterly in form and contents, all parties can now co-operate in the Constituent Assembly, secure in the knowledge that their views have been respected and rights safeguarded. The view of all parties having been met, the country is entitled to expect these parties to co-operate in the Constituent Assembly."

The National Standard said: "The statement issued from London on Saturday does not smooth out the way for Indian freedom plan to be worked out."

The Free Press Journal's editorial said: "The London conference has fizzled out. The British made no different approach."—United Press.

HELICOPTER CRASH

San Marco, Texas, Dec. 9. Army Lieut Jack Burlage died to-day in Brooke General Hospital, bringing to four the number of deaths in the crash of an Army helicopter which fell in flames shortly after taking off from the Army helicopter school on Friday.

Burlage fell clear but suffered severe burns in trying to save the three other passengers.—United Press.

British Warships Race To Aid Stranded Jews

Jerusalem, Dec. 9. The British destroyer Chevron was forging through white-capped waves in a Mediterranean storm to-night on her 600-mile voyage of mercy from Haifa to Syria—a barren treeless island on the fringe of the Dodecanese group—where some 800 Jews have been marooned since their ship foundered on Saturday.

In her wake sailed a British minesweeper, also loaded with supplies. The Chevron was carrying blankets, food and clothing to supplement the five tons of supplies dropped on the island early to-day by three RAF Halifax planes.

So far the Syria relief operations have been carried out entirely by British forces. A plane chartered yesterday by the Jewish Agency to fly four doctors to Syria had not turned up from Cairo by to-night and is not expected to get off until to-morrow.

Two Greek destroyers were dispatched from Athens to-day by the Royal Greek Navy to the aid of the would-be immigrants.

Tank Landing Ship of the Greek Navy carrying food and medical supplies was also despatched at the suggestion of the Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces Mediterranean Fleet, Admiral Sir Algernon Willis.

A Jewish Agency representative called on the British Ambassador in Athens to-day requesting help to rescue the stranded Jews. The Agency had earlier made a similar appeal to the Embassy by radio.

Jewish Reaction
In Palestine to-day, the plight of the illegal immigrants—encamped in a valley on the south-west tip of the island and exposed to cold winds and rain sweeping from Greece—overshadowed the opening of the World Zionist Congress in Switzerland.

The swift response by the British authorities to the Jewish SOS plus the cheerful nonchalance with which the Halifax pilots made to-day's 1,000 mile-round trip with supplies, has stirred the entire Jewish community of Palestine.

Twenty-seven parachute-borne containers were dropped over Syria to-day from one Halifax aircraft.

The officer superintending the drop said: "It is difficult to drop personnel such as medical supplies. But we would be willing to try it."

The shipwrecked Jews are spread in groups all over the island's only valley—a narrow "saucer" rimmed by hills.

Unconfirmed reports from Jewish sources in Athens said to-night that eight of the Jews shipwrecked were killed and several others were injured when their boat struck a rock. The island is uninhabited.

A British tanker was the first rescue ship to reach the Jews and it was sighted lying off the island by one of the Halifaxes.

The tanker will stand by until British and Greek naval units arrive.

Though heavy weather is now moderating, it is thought that the rescue operations may take at least a week.—Reuter.

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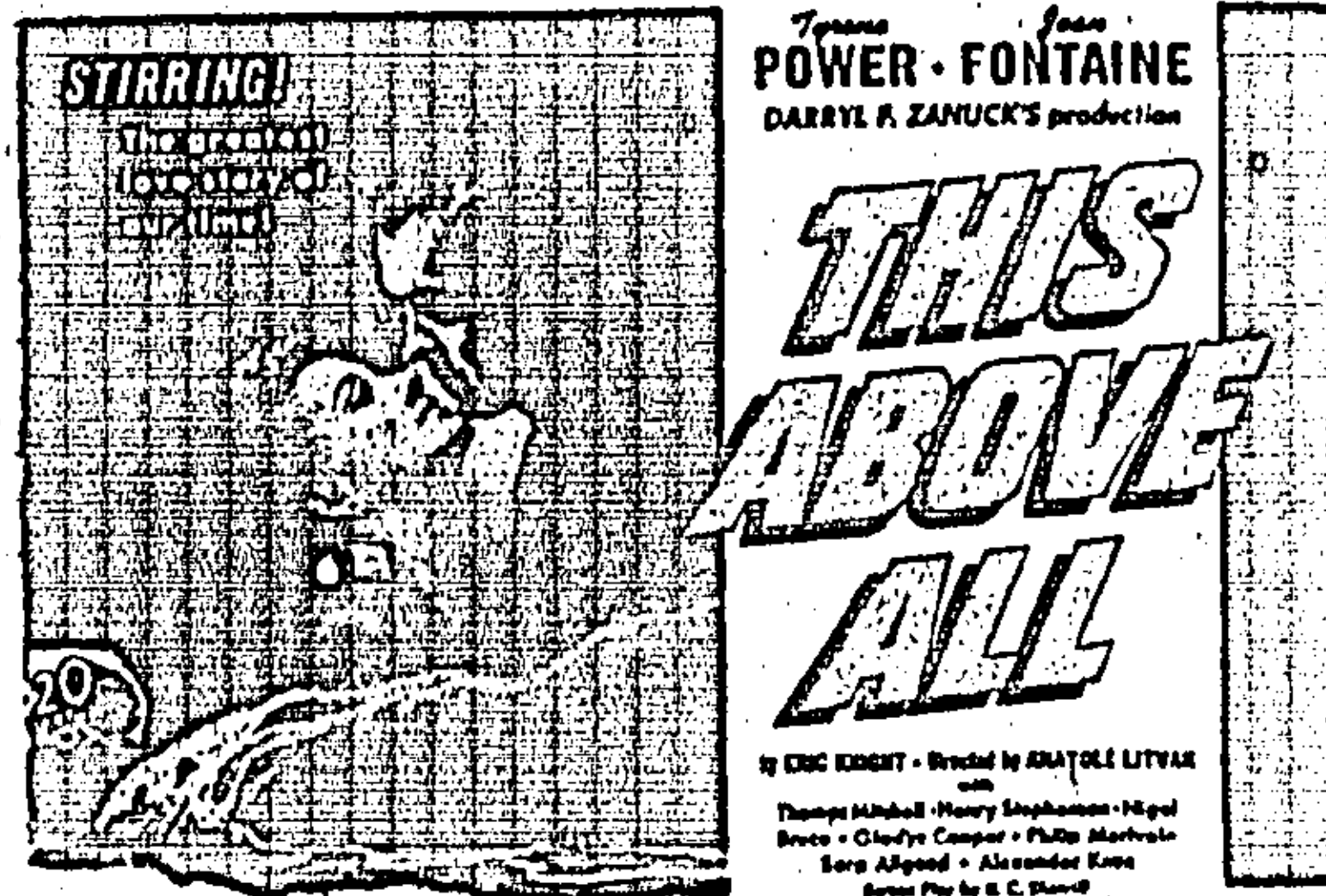
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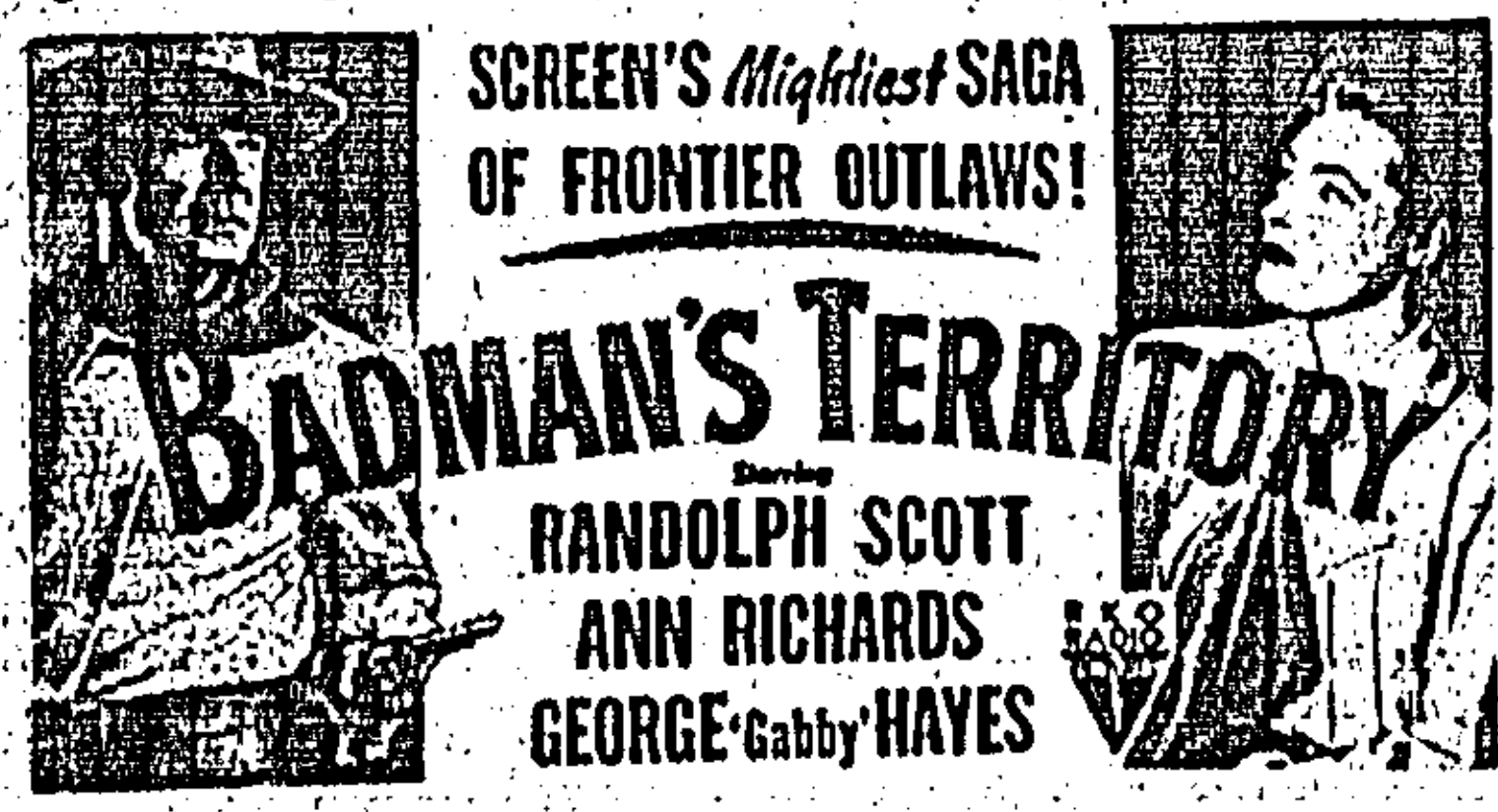
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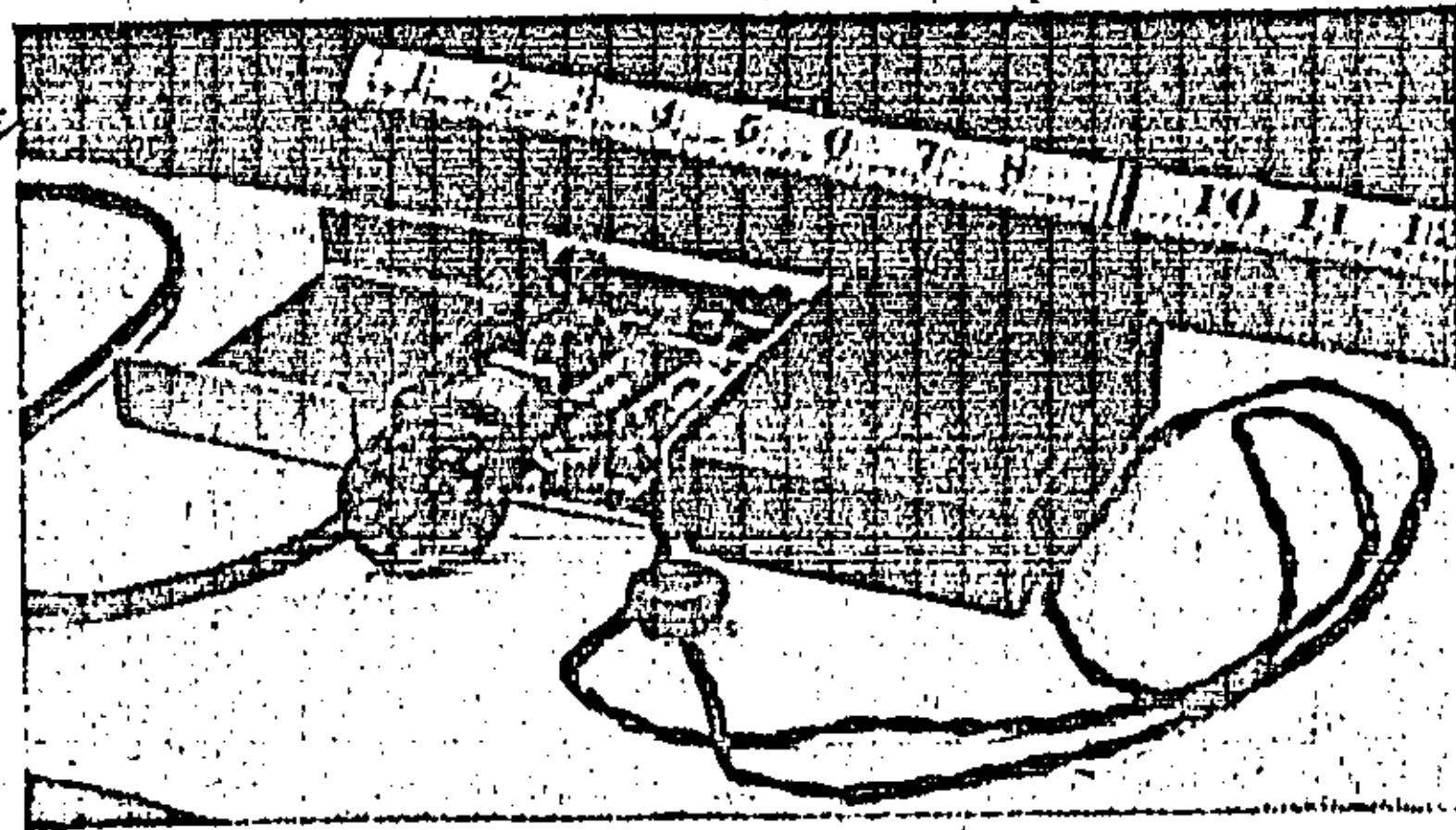
ORIENTAL

FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30—5.15—7.15—9.15 p.m.

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Commencing To-morrow: "DEAD OF NIGHT"



REAL POCKET RADIO—This transmitter-receiver, no larger than a 20-pack of cigarettes, with a transmitting range of about half a mile, is the latest British development in the field of electronics. The set is carried in the pocket, the earphones appear like a deaf-aid set, and the microphone is concealed under the jacket lapel.

The British Set Make News In New York

ALL around New York you see familiar British faces—in the hotels, the theatres, the restaurants, and certainly in the night clubs.

This is only natural, for of the standardised throng of people, the London faces are the ones we recognise. Just as in a field of wild flowers, where we see only the well-known daisies and dandelions.

The English visitors are gay. They go everywhere. It is lucky that they may pay for their return passage in sterling before leaving England. Otherwise many might be stranded.

THE £75 available in dollars will not long stand the strain of living in New York. But the problem of money is not a subject for talk. In France all Britons discuss their franc situation. But here

But a word of advice to Mr Hylton; he must have Annie, too. Before the war there was no tugboat without Annie, and nowadays there is no gun without Annie. In this case Annie is Miss Ethel Merman.

If she is going London way, "Annie Get Your Gun" will be a big success, even in our biggest theatre.

SIR Alexander Korda is expected in New York. He is a curious man with many qualities. The British film industry owes him much. The memory of his films stays with us. Even if he decided to make no more, his forceful imprint on the life of the industry would allow him to bask in the contentment of past achievement.

He has the real art of conversation—that of being a good listener as well as a good talker. He possesses great curiosity—a quality to be looked on not with disapproval, but with praise.

By Pamela Churchill

there is little reference to dollars. The social alliance between Britain and the United States is more intimate and more natural. Many English have an American relative, everyone a friend. After all, about two million Yanks were stationed in the British Isles recently. And a relative or a friend is often an easy supply for money or money's worth. Besides American hospitality and generosity towards friends is famous.

59th Street houses several Fleet-street figures. The Plaza Hotel is the temporary home of Lord Camrose of the Daily Telegraph, and Lord Rothermere of the Daily Mail.

THESE important English Press Lords have interested the American socialist columnists. Cholly Knickerbocker has written of the beauty of Lady Rothermere—a sentiment rightly echoed on both sides of the Atlantic. She is also witty, and has that measure of intelligence which God has given to many generations of the family from which she springs, the House of Wemyss.

The Plaza Hotel overlooks Central Park, the Hyde Park of New York—a pleasant place of exceptional beauty, where the statues and the trees appear to stand still and defy time.

Lord Camrose and Lord Rothermere overlook this small centre of New York, where there is neither hustle nor bustle. Lord Beaverbrook sits there on a park bench. All the morning and part of each afternoon his friends go to Central Park to join him.

THE House of Commons have members here, too. Sir John Anderson, Independent M.P., atomic bomb authority and director of the Canadian Pacific Railway, is staying. Mr and Mrs Myron Taylor's apartment in the Ritz Carlton. So is Lady Anderson.

The Canadian Pacific Railway does not run in New York. But Baruch and his atom bomb committee provide plenty of work for Sir John.

He and Lady Anderson have been entertained by Mrs Roosevelt, who campaigned vigorously for Senator Mead and ex-Governor Lehmann, the unsuccessful democratic candidates in New York State.

SIR Andrew Duncan, M.P. for the City of London, stays with his son at the 42-storeyed Waldorf Astoria. Their windows look far over the city as from a mountain peak. The younger Duncan is to remain and go into business. He will work for the Shell Company in New York.

The British showman is also abroad in this, the most beautiful of modern cities.

Jack Hylton arrived in the Queen Elizabeth. He has a dual mission: to sell "No Room at the Inn" now playing at the Winter Garden in London; and to take to England "Annie Get Your Gun," the musical hit of the year on Broadway.

NOBEL PRIZES TO BE AWARDED TO-DAY

ING GUSTAVUS of Sweden, the Swedish Cabinet, members of the Riksdag and the Diplomatic Corps, representatives of scientific and artistic societies all over the world assemble to-day in the flower-decked great hall of the Royal Musical Academy in Stockholm.

The occasion is the annual presentation of the Nobel Prizes, and to-day's ceremonies also mark the fiftieth anniversary of the death of the originator.

Swedish chemist and engineer Alfred Nobel, a diligent and self-effacing man, was the great scientific inventor of explosives. He produced dynamite in 1862, blasting gelatin fourteen years later, and ballistite, the precursor of cordite, in 1889. From the manufacture of these death-dealing materials and large interests in the Bakú oilfields, he amassed a vast fortune.

He left the great bulk of it in trust for the establishment of five prizes to be awarded annually.

The first goes to the scientist who has made the most important discovery or invention in the domain of physics; there is another for chemistry; a third for medicine; and a fourth for the author of the most distinguished literary work of an idealist tendency.

Controversial

FINALLY, this originator of all that was most destructive until the atom was split, devoted his fifth prize to Peace. His testament stipulates that it will be awarded to "who shall have most or best promoted the fraternity of nations; the abolition or diminution of standing armies; and the formation or increase of peace congresses."

Few international honours have quite the fame of this prize, and none has proved more difficult to assess or award, or caused more controversy. It is a sad comment on the behaviour of the last two generations that on fourteen occasions there was no award, and that only eleven years ago, it went to a great pacifist who was interned in a concentration camp for his views, and who has since died in captivity. This was a German, von Ossietzky, a true martyr, who was long and bitterly persecuted by the Nazis for his advocacy of disarmament and international peace.

So enraged were the Nazis at the international press campaign that ensued that they passed a law forbidding Germans from accepting such prizes. Two distinguished chemists were thus prevented from receiving the honours for which they were designated in 1938 and 1939.

PRIZES for physics and chemistry are awarded by the Swedish Academy of Science; medicine by the Caroline Medical Institute of Stockholm; literature by the Swedish Royal Academy; and that for peace by a committee of five elected by the Norwegian Parliament. They are worth about £10,000 each, and were first awarded in 1901.

A glance at the names of winners and their achievements provides a brief but fascinating history of the great development of modern science. Great Britain has figured most prominently in these awards, and stands second only to Germany in the total assessment.

In the realm of physics, there was Lord Rayleigh (1904), to whom the science of optics owes so much. Sir Joseph John Thomson (1906), was one-time President of the Royal Society. Sir William Bragg shared the prize with his father in 1915. He is an Australian

By
PETER LOVEGROVE

who received his award at the remarkably early age of 25, and who was employed on sound ranging in the map section of British Army HQ in France in World War I. Lancashire-born C. G. Barkla won it in 1917 for his X-ray discoveries, and C. T. R. Wilson, a Scottish farmer's son, in 1927 for his research on atmospheric electricity. The following year, it went to O. W. Richardson, for his work on electrons; in 1935, to Professor J. Chadwick, who discovered the neutrons and in 1937, to G. P. Thomson, for his atomic research work.

The chemistry award has gone to Britain on six occasions. There was Sir William Ramsay in 1904; Sir E. Rutherford four years later; another atom scientist four years later, F. Soddy (1921), who originated the Displacement Law of Radioactivity; F. W. Aston (1922), one-time technical head of an aircraft factory at Farnborough; A. Harden (1929), for his investigations of sugar fermentations and studies of vitamin problems; and W. H. Harvey, Birmingham University professor and an authority on synthetic chemistry and Vitamin C, in 1937.

For Medicine

NINE British scientists have obtained the medicine honour. The list is headed by Sir Ronald Ross (1902), the famous expert on tropical diseases, for his work on malaria. Then came A. V. Hill (1922), the biophysicist who was a member of the War Cabinet's Scientific Advisory Committee in the late war; F. G. Banting and J. J. R. MacLeod

(1923), who discovered insulin for the treatment of diabetes; Sir F. G. Hopkins, O. M. (1929), the founder of vitamin research and Official Analyst to the Home Office; Sir Charles Sherrington and E. D. Adrian (1932), for their joint work on the brain and nervous systems; Professor Sir Henry Dale (1936), the present President of the Royal Society, who was chairman of Mr Churchill's Scientific Committee two years ago; and, last year, Professor Sir Alexander Fleming and Sir Henry Florey, for their discovery of penicillin.

Rudyard Kipling (1907), "poet laureate of the Seven Seas" the great Irish poet and dramatist, W. B. Yeats (1923), Bernard Shaw (1925), and John Galsworthy (1932) have been awarded the Literature prize. Shaw dedicated the entire sum of the award to further an exchange of Swedish and British cultural values.

Trade Union Leader

BRITISH efforts for peace have been recognised on five occasions. The Americans have received seven awards in this section, France and Switzerland have each figured four times, Germany twice; Italy once and Russia not at all.

The first Briton to receive this honour was a joiner, who founded the Amalgamated Carpenters' and Joiners' Union and who was for a long time one of the leaders of the Trade Union movement. This was Sir William R. Croser, who received his prize in 1903. Sir Austen Chamberlain, Tory Foreign Minister, negotiator of the Locarno Treaty, was awarded it in 1925.

Then came Sir Norman Angell (1933), who has been rancher, gold prospector, lecturer, economist, journalist and author, and has devoted his life to the cause of peace; Arthur Henderson (1934), foreign Secretary in Ramsay MacDonald's second Labour administration; and Viscount Cecil (1937), who did so much to try and make the League of Nations work.

Madame Curie

AT TIMES the Peace Prize has gone, not to an individual but to a society. In 1901, the Institute of International Law was honoured, as were the International Peace Office in 1910 and the Red Cross Committee in 1917.

One award—the 1931 Literature prize—was made posthumously to Erik Axel Karlfeldt, a Swedish author. This had been offered him while he was still living, but he had refused it on the grounds that he was not read outside Sweden.

Only one person has won more than one Nobel prize—and that was the famous Madame Curie, who was honoured in 1903 and 1911 for her work on radium. 24 years later, it was her daughter's turn to win a similar prize.

According To Culbertson

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North had a clear warning of "duplication of values" in to-day's deal, but he disregarded it, to his own loss.

South, dealer.

East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

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WEST

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The bidding:

North: 1 diamond

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West: 128 diamonds

East: 129 diamonds

North: 130 diamonds

West: 131 diamonds

East: 132 diamonds

North: 133 diamonds

West: 134 diamonds

East: 135 diamonds

North: 136 diamonds

West: 137 diamonds

East: 138 diamonds

North: 139 diamonds

West: 140 diamonds

East: 141 diamonds

North: 142 diamonds

West: 143 diamonds

East: 144 diamonds

North: 145 diamonds

Prospects Slim Of Early Reopening Of Japanese Trade

Prospects of Japan reopening to normal trade next year, or even the year after, are slim in the opinion of usually well-informed quarters in Tokyo, says Reuter. They predict that the present deadlock will drag on for some time to come at least until reparations questions are settled and the peace treaty signed. But when this will be is anybody's guess.

In the meantime, foreign business houses are closed, with the exception of certain interests whose specialised services are essential to the work of the occupation forces.

British and American warships and supply vessels make regular calls at Japanese ports, but merchant shipping companies have no incentive to resume their services, as the movement of passengers and cargo is subject to permission from General MacArthur's Headquarters, and this is only granted for high priority reasons.

General MacArthur's forces, in fact, "occupy" Japan in every sense of the word. In Tokyo, requisitioned buildings are staffed with personnel from all branches of the American army, American soldiers, including WACS, crowd the main streets and armed MPs in "snowdrop" helmets guard General MacArthur's headquarters next door to the once famous Imperial Hotel.

Allied Missions

Most Allied countries are represented in Tokyo by missions, the biggest of which is the Soviet, some 500 strong. The British come second with less than a hundred. When peace is signed these missions will be elevated to embassy or legation status.

LONDONERS SEE ATOMIC EXHIBITION

Scientifically minded Londoners are getting to grips with the mysteries of atomic energy with the aid of a compact exhibition now on view at the Science Museum in South Kensington. Here they are to be seen daily, poring over a series of exhibits designed to illustrate the nature of atoms and the amount of energy stored in their infinitesimal depths.

Included in the display are models showing the actual structures of various atoms, and photos of the tracks of atoms and their components—protons, neutrons and electrons. The collision of these particles can be seen and studied and the energy released when the atom is "split" can be measured.

A highlight of the exhibition is a collection of apparatus used by J. J. Thomson, Rutherford, Aston and others in their pioneer investigations in Britain into the problems of atomic structure, which will no doubt be regarded in future times with the same reverence which is now given to such relics as Stephenson's "Rocket" locomotive or Newton's reflecting telescope.

The process of the fission of uranium is illustrated by several exhibits, including photographs showing the test atom bomb explosion in New Mexico in 1945; but pride of place goes to a new and most ingenious mechanical model which, with the aid of ping-pong balls taking the part of "released" neutrons, demonstrates the chain reaction of an A-bomb explosion.

An historic touch is lent by a number of reproductions of John Dalton's Atomic Diagrams, used by this great British scientist of the past in his lectures on the Atomic Theory which he propounded to the world in 1803, thus laying the foundations of modern chemistry.

Although the British Commonwealth Army of Occupation represent 25 percent of the armed forces in Japan, they are isolated in the southern part of the island and receive little outward recognition for the competent, thankless job they are doing.

Compared with the Americans, their lot is a difficult one. Their living and feeding conditions are inferior to the Americans and their entertainment facilities are limited. Their morale, however, is good, and this "forgotten force" has done much for British prestige.

Both American and Commonwealth troops mix well with the Japanese who, after the surrender, expected the worst and instead received humane and friendly treatment. In return, they are co-operating well.

Few Incidents

Incidents are few, and inevitable strikes, demonstrations and red flag waving by minority parties are viewed in their right perspective and kept under control.

The food situation in Japan is bad, but it has improved in the past few months. The rice crop has been better than for several years, and distribution of imported foodstuffs by the occupation forces has partially alleviated what once threatened to be a serious situation. The people of Japan will face the winter with shabbier clothes than they were in pre-war days, but they will have more to eat than a year ago.—Reuter.

Democratisation Of Japanese Diet Building

In present day Japan, where the word "democratisation" is on everybody's lips, even the Diet building may become an object of democratisation.

The possibility was raised following the persistent criticism that the Emperor perching on a high chrysomelid throne, Diet members and Cabinet ministers, and sitting behind the speaker on an elevated platform, represented remnants of feudalism, says Central News.

Lower House Speaker Takeshi Yamazaki requested the House secretariat to draw up a plan for reconstruction of the Lower House Chamber to make it "more befitting for a democratic nation under the new constitution."

Diet members also demanded that the platform from which Cabinet ministers evoked Diet members should be eliminated, since Cabinet ministers had no right to feel superior to Diet members. They also criticised the position of Cabinet ministers behind the Speaker.

The present Japanese Diet building is perhaps the most elaborate and object in Japan, having been completed ten years ago with the best materials from all parts of the country. The 250,000,000 yen building survived the extensive bombing of the capital.

MINING ADVISER

Doctor Jacob Bakker, well-known mining engineer of the Netherlands State Mines, has joined Britain's National Coal Board as Adviser to the Chief Mining Engineer. Dr Bakker, who is 57, is widely recognised throughout the coal-fields of Europe as a leading expert on "horizon mining"—driving main roadways straight out from the pit-bottom and working the coal wherever it is struck.



A typical scene when the Drainless Brains Trust is in session. This inspired lunacy is a feature of the BBC's "Ignorance is Bliss" programme. Left to right (at table): Stewart Macpherson (Question Master); Gladys Hay; (under the table), Harold Berens.

NUREMBERG COURIER SERVICE

The final curtain on the Nuremberg Trials—the hanging of the Nazi criminals—saw also the end of another commitment of Britain's Royal Air Force—that of carrying secret reports, official documents, press reports, newsreels and British Broadcasting Corporation recordings between Furth landing ground, near Nuremberg, and the R.A.F. Station, Blackbushe, England.

For the duration of the Nuremberg Trials, these documents were flown to the United Kingdom daily. Four Mosquitos were available, two at Blackbushe and two at Furth. The Courier Service commenced on November 15, 1945, and was only another job for the British Air Forces of Occupation. Less spectacular than the work done during the war, but nevertheless important.

This commitment was handed to No. 2 Group, R.A.F. Gutersloh, which employed aircraft and personnel of Nos. 305 (Polish), 421 and 107 Squadrons. Each squadron undertook a month's duty in turn and supplied aircraft, crews and ground staff for maintenance. The Polish squadron took the first tour of duty and set a standard which remained high throughout the time the Courier Service operated.

Frequently, when ordinary transport aircraft were bound owing to bad weather during last winter and the spring, the Mosquitos rose to the occasion. More often than not there would be broken cumulus cloud over the landing ground at Furth, and sometimes the area would be blanketed with thick cloud, making landing a hazardous undertaking. In fact, there were only two occasions when they failed to operate during the whole of the time that the trials were in progress.

Two Mosquitos were held at the terminal landing grounds daily in readiness for the mission, one to do the actual journey, and one in reserve. With the regularity of clockwork, at 1.30 p.m. each day the crews received the sealed mail bags, taxied into wind and took off, and within two or three hours dispatches and reports were delivered in Whitehall, copy was being sub-edited in Fleet Street, and on quite a number of occasions BBC recordings were being run over in readiness for a broadcast of the day's proceedings in the six o'clock news.

EUROPE SEES BRITISH ART

Art lovers on the Continent of Europe have recently been enabled to see a representative exhibition of contemporary British painting during the visits to various capital cities of a travelling exhibition of 124 pictures. The selection included work ranging in time from the two great English impressionist masters, Sickert and Steer, to Albert Richards who was killed—serving as a war artist—in the last year of World War II.

In style the exhibition was comprehensive of all the different schools active in Britain during the past 50 years, and represented the latest trends, most prominent of which is the neo-romantic school and includes the work of such different artists as Henry Moore, Graham Sutherland and John Piper.

These latter three all found new fields as war artists in World War II, with Henry Moore, as a painter, with pictures of air-raid shelters, Piper drawing new inspiration from the ruins of Britain's Gothic churches, and Sutherland with his scenes of industrial work and twisted girders, the skeletons of London's devastated buildings.

COMMERCIAL ACCORD

Peking, Dec. 9. The Nationalists in Manchuria and the Soviet military authorities in North Korea have signed and enforced the first commercial accord, according to Tia Kung Pao. The accord provides Soviet supply of electric power to Manchuria payable by the Chinese in kind.—United Press.

LONDON LETTER

By John Shipton

Despite the criticism of Mr. John Strachey and the views about food rationing, housing is still the number one problem not only in London but all over Britain. I have had first hand experience of this accommodation racket and you can take it from me that all you have read about overcharging is not exaggerated. It is not an uncommon thing for a man to have to share a room with seven others at something like £2 a week each, and although rent tribunals have certainly done good work in cutting rents according to accommodation available, the housing problem is still a serious one.

For example, I know of a case where a tribunal cut a rent by more than two-thirds, at the same time giving the tenant three months' security. That breaking spell is almost up now, the tenant being faced with finding a room or rooms with Christmas almost upon us. And there are thousands of people in the same predicament.

Housing Racketeers

I have it on the highest authority that in London's East End alone up to 20 people share the same house and one gas cooker. Indeed, many families at their wit's end for accommodation are readily falling victims to numerous racketeers. Among them are what is known as "house farmers." They buy large properties and let out single rooms for as much as £3 a week. So it seems I am one of the lucky ones.

Despite all this Mr. Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health, is convinced that housing will not be a major issue at the next general election. He must be a super optimist. At least 2,000,000 houses are wanted in the next four years to meet only present requirements from a building labour force estimated to be 500,000 men. This is rather a gloomy picture of the housing situation in Britain, but I am happy to record there is a brighter side. It is a bonus scheme for builders by which it is hoped to speed up the new houses. On the first job where the scheme was tried, output jumped three-fold. The new scheme is expected to start on a nationwide basis early in the new year.

Bonus Scheme

Trade leaders are confident the bonus will not mean increased costs, claiming that the vastly increased output will cancel out the extra wages cost. Members of the trade's National Production Council contend that three immediate effects of a bonus scheme will be: a tremendous speed-up in all types of building work, particularly housing; the lifting of a huge black market in the building trade; and the rebirth of a "Dunkirk spirit" throughout the nation's industries.

Builders and trade leaders are in favour of this bonus scheme and it will help to ease the serious housing situation the sooner it is put into action the better.

Britain Can Make It

To turn to a somewhat related subject. The "Britain-Can-Make-It" exhibition is still attracting huge crowds to the Victoria and Albert Museum in South Kensington. It was amazed the other day when I came across a collector's call out "New stop for the 'Britain Can Make It' Exhibition; this one for the end of the queue."

Many provincial people, who always flock to London for Christmas, will now be able to see the exhibition in their own towns. It has been decided to extend the exhibition until December 31. Originally it was scheduled to close at the end of October. The crowds, however, did not fall off and the closing date was timed for November. Still, the exhibition would not go on a provincial tour made the queues even longer; hence the December closing date. The exhibition will be closed on Christmas Day when the staff will take a rest after dealing with hundreds of thousands of visitors.

This Year's Pantomime

Nat Mills, of Nat Mills and Bobbie, is the only pantomime dame in London this year. He plays the title role in "Mother Goose" at the Casino, a pantomime which has been running since the end of the war, with the £10,000,000 production would have cost pre-war. It is Nat Mills' first pantomime appearance.

He told me the other day that along with his wife he was looking forward to the Casino show as being one of the milestones of their great partnership. One thing is certain—that this famous burlesque team will be another big London success.

The Casino show opens on December 20. It has a cast of 100, including Stanley Holloway and the O'Garra Brothers, 32 juveniles (aged 14) and a chorus of 100. But with only one pantomime London will not be short of entertainment. "Piccadilly Hayride" (Sid Field) is at the Prince of Wales; Cochran's "Big Ben" at the Adelphi; Grand National Night" (Hermione Blandy and Leslie Banks) at the Apollo; "Sweetest and Lowest" at the Ambassadors; "The Night and the Laugh" (Bud Flanagan) at the Coliseum; "Vanity Fair" (Claire Luce) at the Comedy; "Is you Honey-moon?" 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